

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00

AID-05 OES-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 L-03 DODE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 /096 W

-----100264 071934Z /43

R 071906Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0680

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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PASS TO USDA FOR HATHAWAY ELECTRONICALLY

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: WFC, IORG, UN, MX

SUBJECT: WFC PREPARATORY MEETING - SECOND DAY

1. THE SECOND DAY OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE BEGAN WITH AN EXTENDED DEBATE BY NUMEROUS DELEGATES WHO WISHED THE

CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON FOOD PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENT TO BE RESURRECTED (OR AT LEAST THAT ITS FUNCTIONS CONTINUE) AND WITH WIDESPREAD OPPOSITION TO THE PRODUCTION PROPOSAL OF THE SECRETARIAT. SUCH CONFLICT REFLECTS A LACK OF FOCUS THAT THUS FAR CHARACTERIZES THE MEETING. NEVERTHELESS, TANCO AND WALTERS ARE MODERATELY OPTIMISTIC THAT A COHERENT DOCUMENT CAN BE PREPARED FOR PRESENTATION TO THE MINISTERIAL SESSIONS. THEIR OPTIMISM IS BASED ON THE FACT OF DIVISION WITHIN THE G-77 BETWEEN ROME GROUP AND HOME OFFICE REPRESENTATIVES. SUCH DIVISION CUTS BOTH WAYS, OF COURSE. YESTERDAY TANCO FAILED IN CAUCUS TO BRING THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES INTO LINE BEHIND THE THEN CURRENT

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VERSION OF THE SECRETARIAT'S RECOMMENDATIONS. HIS EFFORTS REPORTEDLY INCLUDED SUCH THEATRICALS AS AN OFFER TO RESIGN. AS A RESULT OF HIS FAILURE AND G-77 DIVISION, THE G-77 SPOKESMAN (MASUD) SPEAKING LATER ON THE PRODUCTION ISSUE, OFFERED THE MEETING AN ALTERNATIVE SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS, BUT INDICATED VARIOUS INDIVIDUAL G-77 DELEGATES HAD SUPPLEMENTARY SUGGESTIONS. THE G-77 PROPOSAL IGNORES COM-

PLETELY THE SECRETARIAT'S SCHEME FOR DONOR/RECIPIENT CONFERENCES TO AGREE UPON DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY. INSTEAD IT REHASHES OLD THEMES OF DONOR RESPONSIBILITIES. THE CURRENT G-77 LINE IN DEFENSE OF THIS POSITION RUNS ROUGHLY AS FOLLOWS: "WE HAVE CONCENTRATED ON RESOURCES ON AGRICULTURE AS DEMANDED BUT YOU HAVE NOT FOLLOWED SUIT." WHILE THE G-77 COUNTRIES RECOMMENDATIONS ARE PROBABLY NOT A SERIOUS THREAT, THEY DO ILLUSTRATE THAT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE WFC IS LESS IN CONTROL IN MEXICO THAN IT WAS IN MANILA.

2. U. S. INTERVENTIONS HAVE THUS FAR BEEN WELL RECEIVED. WE CONTINUE TO HAVE A RESERVE OF GOOD WILL TO DRAW UPON HERE THAT SHOULD SERVE US WELL NEXT WEEK. REGARDING OTHER DC DELEGATIONS, IN GENERAL THEY ARE MORE RELAXED THAN LAST YEAR. AT THIS STAGE, ACCORDINGLY, THE PROBLEMS WOULD SEEM TO BE INTRA G-77.

3. WITH REGARD TO DETAILS: AFTERNOON OF THE FIRST DAY AND MORNING OF THE SECOND WAS SPENT IN DISCUSSION OF INFORMATION ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. MEXICO PROLONGED DEBATE CONSIDERABLY BY INTRODUCING A MOTION THAT EITHER CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON FOOD PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENT (CGFPI) BE RECONSTITUTED OR THAT ITS FUNCTIONS BE ABSORBED BY WFC. THROUGH THE COURSE OF TWENTY INTERVENTIONS AND A RECESS WFC PRESIDENT TANCO GUIDED GROUP TO CONCLUSION THAT CGFPI DEMISE IS AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT WITH ITS SPONSORING AGENCIES AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUMING ITS OPERATIONAL FUNCTIONS, THAT CGFPI ROLE IN IMPROVING COORDINATION BETWEEN DONORS, RECIPIENT AND AGENCIES SHOULD BE ASSUMED BY WFC, WITHIN ITS EXISTING BUDGET, AND THAT PRECISE WAY IN WHICH WFC WOULD ASSUME THIS ROLE WOULD BE CONSIDERED UNDER DISCUSSION OF SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS REGARDING INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION. U. S. DELEGATION DID NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS DISCUSSION.

4. AT THE END OF THE TUESDAY MORNING SESSION, GROUP DECIDED THAT THE PREPARATORY MEETING SHOULD ATTEMPT TO PRODUCE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS ON ALL ISSUES UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR REFERRAL TO MINISTERIAL MEETING. AS A RESULT OF THIS DECISION THE RAPPORTEUR WILL PREPARE A PROPOSED TEXT THURSDAY EVENING WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED BY A WORKING GROUP ON FRIDAY AND REFERRED TO A PLENARY SESSION, HOPEFULLY LATE FRIDAY AFTERNOON, FOR APPROVAL. WORKING GROUP WILL BE COMPOSED OF TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH OF FIVE REGIONS, I.E. ASIA, AFRICA, LATIN AMERICA, THE OECD COUNTRIES (U. S.) AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

5. THIS COURSE OF ACTION RUNS THE RISK THAT ROME G-77 WILL LOAD TEXT WITH NUMEROUS UNACCEPTABLE DEMANDS, BUT LIMITS

THE ABILITY WFC SECRETARIAT TO PRESENT THE MINISTERIAL SESSION WITH A LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHICH GOVERNMENTS HAVE NOT HAD A CHANCE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS (IN THE U. S. CASE, THE SECRETARIAT HAS FAILED TO REFLECT ON VIEWS IN TWO PREVIOUS DRAFTS).

6. ENTIRE TUESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION WAS DEVOTED TO FIRST SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEM, INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION. G-77 SPOKESMAN (PAKISTAN) DELIVERED ROUTINE STATEMENT ON NEED FOR INCREASED FLOWS OF EXTERNAL RESOURCES, CITING WHAT HE CALLED TARGET OF \$8.3 BILLION, BUT MAKING NO COMMENT ON SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS FOR PREPARATION OF FOOD INVESTMENT STRATEGIES. MOST OTHER SPEAKERS FOUND DIFFICULTY WITH SOME ASPECT OF SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS, FAO AND IBRD BOTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00
AID-05 OES-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 L-03 DODE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 /096 W
-----100316 071933Z /43

R 071906Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0681
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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DELIVERED RELATIVELY HARSH STATEMENTS QUESTIONING VIABILITY OF FOOD PLAN APPROACH AND THE NEED FOR WFC INVOLVEMENT IN COUNTRY-LEVEL PLANNING BUT STOPPED SHORT OF REFUSING TO COOPERATE. FAO STATED FOOD PLANNING MUST BE INTEGRATED WITH AGRICULTURAL PLANNING AND ULTIMATELY OVER-

ALL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND THAT PROJECT APPROACH IS THE ONLY WAY TO OBTAIN EXTERNAL RESOURCES. IBRD REFERRED TO ITS COUNTRY CONSULTATIVE GROUP SYSTEM AND CITED NEED TO INTEGRATE ALL SECTORS IN COUNTRY PLANNING, BUT STATED THAT WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK CERTAIN COUNTRIES MAY WISH TO STRESS FOOD. SEVERAL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES DID NOT LIKE EXCLUSIVITY CONNOTED BY SELECTING A SMALL NUMBER OF COUNTRIES FOR ATTENTION. ALMOST ALL SPEAKERS OPPOSED IDEA OF SPECIAL MEETINGS TO DISCUSS CONSTRAINTS TO INCREASING RESOURCES FOR FOOD PRODUCTION AND BOTH DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SPOKE AGAINST REFERENCE TO DAC, THOUGH FOR DIFFERENT REASONS. LUCEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRODUCTION, MEETING REPORTS, FOODS, INVESTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MEXICO09413
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780238-0448
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780687/aaaacwid.tel
Line Count: 181
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 46395e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2456202
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WFC PREPARATORY MEETING - SECOND DAY
TAGS: PORG, MX, UN, WFC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/46395e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014